THE

HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY

OF

ANIMAL MAGNETISM,

WITH PRACTICAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EXERCISE OF THIS POWER.

BEING A COMPLETE COMPEND OF ALL THE INFORMATION NOW EXISTING UPON THIS IMPORTANT SUBJECT.

BY A PRACTICAL MAGNETIZER.

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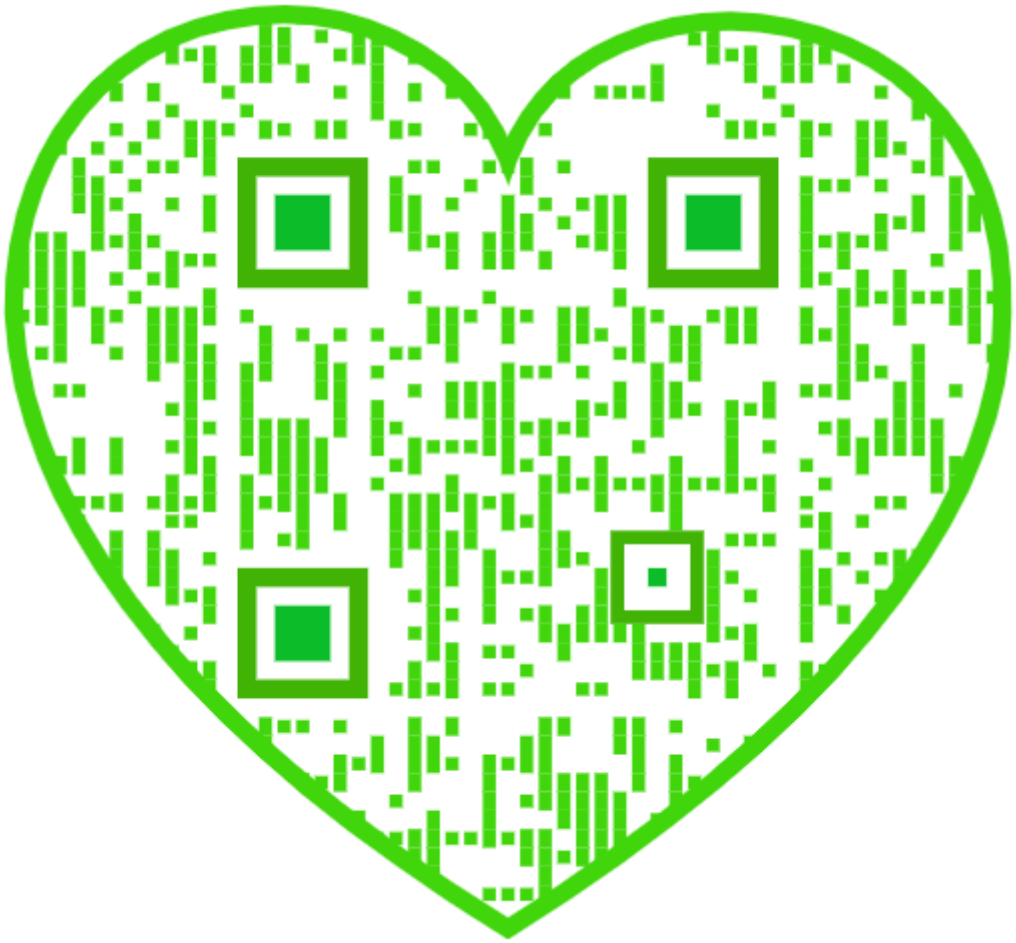

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To

ROBERT H. COLLYER, M. D.

(Pupil of Dr. Elliotson, Member Massachusetts Medical Society, &c.)

THE GREAT CHAMPION OF MESMERISM

IN THE UNITED STATES,

THIS WORK IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED,

BY THE AUTHOR.

NOTE. This work is intended as an elementary treatise upon Animal Magnetism, for the use of intelligent inquirers. The Author has attempted to give just what is stated in the title-page, and no more. His intention was, not to convince the skeptical, but to inform the candid. It was supposed that a compend of information, in relation to the history, philosophy, and practice of Animal Magnetism, with all the rules and cautions for the exercise of the power, was desired by the public. And here it is.

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CHAPTER I.

Early History of Animal Magnetism—Mesmer the Discoverer—Its fate in France—Investigation of the French Academy of Medicine—Opinion of Dr. Franklin.—Magnetism in Great Britain—Opinions of Dr. Elliotson, Rev. C. H. Townsend, Charles Dickens, Lord Brougham, &c.

The true power of Animal Magnetism, as practiced at the present day, was first discovered by Antony Mesmer, a Swiss Physician, who, about the year 1750, attracted much attention by his philosophical writings. He appeared in Paris, in 1778, where the subject of Magnetizm soon excited great interest; and it is still held in high esteem by the most learned and scientific men of that city, notwithstanding the repeated attempts which have been made to crush it. The Science is now frequently called Mesmerism, after its discoverer.

In the first discovery of this science, somnambulism was rare, and clairvoyance was unknown. These phenomena have been developed by subsequent experiments. Mesmer applied his power solely to the cure of diseases. He enveloped it in great mystery, and sold his secret to different persons for large sums of money. Many curious stories are related of him, which our limits will not permit us to notice. It is said he was in the habit of operating, not only by actual contact with the patient, but by means also of long rods of iron, which he held at some distance from his body. One of his principal methods was, to convey the magnetic fluid, by cords, either from magnetized trees, or out of covered vessels, to his patients, and in this manner was able to throw them into a condition in which they could not be said to be either asleep or awake.

In his most palmy days, it is said, Mesmer was able to save himself an immensity of trouble, for one glance of his eye was quite enough, very commonly, to rivet the subdued patient in a profound slumber. He always operated, except when he used the magnetized trees, in a chamber lined with mirors, and darkened to a sort of twilight; and the place, when the operation was going on, is said to have been "a wilderness of solemn silence," broken only by the liquid sounds of the harmonicon, of which Mesmer was a perfect master. In the course of modern experiments, the science has of course been greatly simplified and improved.

In the year 1784, the subject of Animal Magnetism had excited such great and general interest in France, that the King directed a Committee of the Royal Academy of Medicine of Paris, to investigate the subject, and report their opinion of its merits. Dr. Benjamin Franklin, the American Philosopher, then Ambassador at the court of France, was appointed a member of this Committee.

A great number of experiments were performed before this Committee, by Dr. Deslon, a follower of Mesmer, and a report was made unfavorable to the science. It is generally supposed that this report condemned the science altogether; and the opinion of Dr. Franklin has often been triumphantly quoted by skeptics in support of their skepticism. But such was not the fact. The Committee merely decided that there was not sufficient evidence exhibited, to show that the phenomena called *Magnetic,* were caused by the action of a *fluid*, as had been contended by the disciples of Mesmer; but they attributed the singular results which they had witnessed—and which were admitted as remarkable in the report—to the influence of the *imagination.*

"Say what you will," observes the Rev. Mr. Townsend, "the important point in Mesmerism—the strange influence of man upon his fellows—was conceded by the Committee, in terms the most explicit."

One circumstance attending this report will show the value of the great American Philosopher's opinion. It is said that of all the members of the Committee, Dr. Franklin, on account of ill health, took the least active part in the investigation. Mr. Alexander Jussieu, one of the most eminent naturalists and philosophers of his age, carefully attended all the experiments, and experimented himself upon several patients. Now mark the result. Dr. Franklin signed the report against Magnetism, and Jussieu alone differed from his associates. He did not sign the report, but published a private one, remarkable in every point, in which he asserts that he had obtained positive evidence of the reality of a magnetic power in the human system.

In 1825, this same French Academy of Medicine, at the suggestion of Dr. Foissac, decided that the multitude of new facts which had been elicited in relation to Animal Magnetism, rendered it necessary to make a new examination of the subject. A Committee of nine members, distinguished for their talents and philosophical attainments, was formed for that purpose, and after four years of careful investigation, they made an elaborate report entirely favorable to Magnetism.

They declared, among other things, that "a certain number of the observed phenomena, appeared to them to have been produced by Magnetism alone, and could not have been produced without it." And they concluded by saying, that "they have collected facts important enough to show that the Academy should encourage and favor researches in Magnetism, as being a very curious branch of Physiology and Natural History."

Let no person after reading these facts, pretend to assert that the French Academy of Medicine has condemned Animal Magnetism. We are willing to let the opinion of Dr. Franklin, on this subject, pass for what it is worth. That he was wise beyond knowledge, is evident.

From France, a knowledge of Animal Magnetism, soon spread into Great Britain, Germany, Prussia, Russia, and other countries of Europe, where it has engaged the attention of scientific men to the present day. Innumerable treatises have been written upon it, in various languages; hospitals have been erected for the application of the power as a medical agent; a professorship of Magnetism was created by the faculty at Berlin; and all for what? To sustain an imposture? It cannot be possible.

In Great Britain the science of Magnetism appears to have made less progress than in the United States. At least, the accounts of experiments which we receive from England, through the public journals, do not display a very high degree of skill in the art, or a very extended knowledge of the principles upon which it is based. The power, however, appears to have been extensively applied for the relief of pain, and in surgical operations, with great success.

In England there are two distinguished believers and advocates of Mesmerism, whose names are known to all intelligent persons at all acquainted with the science—Dr. John Elliotson, President of the London University Hospital, and the Rev. Chauncy Hare Townsend of the established Church. Dr. Elliotson has been remarkably successful in his experiments. He has delivered an address before the London Phrenological Society, in explanation and support of the Magnetic power, particularly in relation to its influence upon the separate organs of the brain; and he has also published several valuable essays upon the subject. One chapter of his splendid work on Physiology, which may be found in the libraries of some few wealthy persons in the United States, is devoted to Magnetism, as an important branch of study.

The excellent work entitled "Facts in Mesmerism," by the Rev. Mr. Townsend, which has been republished in this country, has done much to advance the science, and to give it a respectable character. This work is more particularly noticed in Chapter VIII of this treatise.

The opinion of Mr. Charles Dickens (Boz,) may also be noticed, to show the estimation in which this science is now held by men of intelligence in Great Britain. Mr. Dickens, in a letter to a friend, says, that having witnessed the experiments of Dr. Elliotson in London, "he should be untrue to that gentleman and to himself, if he hesitated to declare, that he is a believer in the science, and that he became so against all his preconceived opinions and prejudices."

It has also been stated that the London Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, with Lord Brougham at their head, has borne public testimony to the reality and usefulness of Magnetism.

CHAPTER II.

Introduction of Magnetism into the United States—Poyen's Experiments and publications—Dr. R. H. Collyer—the Boston Report on Magnetism—Present condition of the Science in the United States—Magnetism in New England—Dr. D. Gilbert, Benj. T. Nyman, Rev. J. B. Dods, Mrs. Fergus, Silas Allen, Dr. Shattuck, &c.

Animal Magnetism was first introduced into the United States, in 1836, by Charles Poyen, a French gentleman of good talents and education, who appears to have been a very sincere, but excessively timid advocate of the science. He was engaged for some time as a teacher of the French language at Lowell, Mass., and afterwards at Boston. He had witnessed experiments in Magnetism before leaving Paris, but did not exercise the power until after his arrival in this country. He visited a large number of towns and cities in New England giving lectures upon Magnetism, public experiments and private instruction to classes. He met with very little success, either in promoting a belief in his doctrines, or in pecuniary benefit to himself. But the seed was sown which was to spring up and bear a hundred fold.

Mons. Poyen's principal magnetic subject was a Miss Gleason, of Pawtucket, a young lady of good character, who had been an invalid, and was greatly benefited by magnetic influence. Mons. Poyen also magnetized several other persons, but he does not appear to have possessed any extraordinary power.

Miss Gleason was one of the best magnetic subjects ever produced in the United States. She has since been magnetized many thousand times, without any injury to her mind or health. She has resided for some years past in the family of Mr. Alexander Wright of Lowell, a gentleman of Scotch descent, a powerful magnetizer, and a particular friend of Mons. Poyen, during his residence in this country. Mr. Wright is the superintendant of a Carpet Factory. Miss Gleason has frequently been magnetized by ladies, and children.

Mons. Poyen published a work in 1837, entitled the "Progress of Animal Magnetism in New England," in which he gave a history of his experiments with Miss Gleason and others, prefaced by an interesting essay upon "The Proofs of Magnetism." This is a work of considerable value.

Miss Gleason is now in the city of Boston, in the family of Mr. Silas Allen, (a good magnetizer) and while in the magnetic state, she frequently examines persons afflicted with internal diseases, with great benefit to the patients, giving them informa-

tion respecting their condition which they could not possibly ob tain from physicians who judge of diseases only by external signs.

A year or too after the publication of his work, Mons. Poyen returned to Paris, where he still resides. The last information we had of him was, that he had partially given up his favorite subject of animal magnetism, and devoted himself to the cultivation of the sugar beet. His ambition while in this country, appears to have been to win the reputation of introducing and establishing the science of magnetism in the United States. But he lacked the magnetic power and the moral courage necessary to accomplish this gigantic task. He had raised a whirlwind, but he could not direct the storm.

Much discussion was excited by Mons. Poyen's experiments. The public sentiment was however violently opposed to the subject, supposing it to be an arrant humbug. The letter to Dr. Brigham of Hartford, by Col. Stone of N. Y.; the Pratical Instructions of Deleuze; Durand's pretended Exposition of Magnetism; and several other publications appeared at this time. A few intelligent men in Boston, Providence and New York, learned the art of magnetizing; but the whole thing was generally considered so absurd and ridiculous, that they were compelled to practice it in secret. Durand's burlesque upon magnetism contributed, more than all other causes combined to produce this result.

As might be expected, a great calm followed this excited state of the public mind. Every body supposed that animal magnetism was effectually killed; and it was consigned, by common consent to that "limbo" of things lost or forgotten upon earth which Milton speaks of—a place "far off on the back side of the world."

Two or three years passed away, and no new facts were elicited in relation to this subject. At length there appeared in New York a magnetizer of great and peculiar power, Dr. Robert H. Collyer, whose name and history are now so familiar to the people of New England, that it is almost unnecessary to detail his agency in the promotion of magnetism.

Dr. Collyer is one of the most fearless advocates of magnetism we have ever known; and although somewhat peculiar in his public discourses, and somewhat eccentric in his general character, yet from his thorough acquaintance with chemistry and physiology, his burning enthusiam, and his dauntless energy of character, he is a man admirably qualified for an advocate of Mesmerism, which excites at once the strongest prejudices and the fiercest opposition of all classes of society. If Dr. Collyer has done little to covince the mass of mankind of the truth of magnetism, he has done much to excite investigation and inquiry, and to revive the subject from its dormant state, and he has been justly styled "the champion of Mesmerism in the United States."

Dr Collyer first lectured in Boston in the spring of 1841. His lectures were attended by large and intelligent audiences, almost every night, for nearly three months in succession. Many persons were convinced by his experiments of the reality of a magnetic power in the human system, and many intelligent skeptics were confounded.

A Committee, consisting of twenty-four gentlemen, selected from the learned professions, was finally chosen to investigate the subject in private, and decide whether it was a humbug or not. The committee held numerous sessions, and Dr. Collyer appeared before them with his subjects, and entered into a full explanation of the magnetic state. The Committee also performed several experiments of a fearful character, which Dr. Collyer had not before attempted. The members finally confessed themselves unable to discover any thing like imposture in the magnetic state, but still they refused to give a decided opinion in favor of the science.

The report of their proceedings however, closed with the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted, with a view to publication :

" Resolved, that while this Committee refrain from expressing any opinion as to the science or principle of animal magnetism, they freely confess, that in the experiments of Dr. Collyer, certain appearances have been presented, which *cannot be explained upon the supposition of collusion*, or by reference to any physiological principles known to them.

This result was perfectly satisfactory to the friends of Magnetism. It concedes the great point in dispute,—the reality of the mesmeric condition,—and when that is granted all the rest must follow, almost as a matter of course.

Dr. Collyer has continued his lectures and experiments in Boston and vicinity, until the present time, with great success. He has also visited various parts of New England, Canada, and New York, where he has invariably attracted large audiences, and contributed in no small degree to extend a knowledge of the science among the people.

A great number of other persons of good talents, have entered the field as lecturers and practical magnetizers, among whom are several of the gentler sex ; and there are now, without doubt, some two or three hundred skilful magnetizers in the city of Boston alone, and some twenty or thirty public lecturers in New England.

Dr. D. Gilbert, a physician of good standing in Boston, has produced some remarkable effects by the power of "local magnetism," or the concentration of the magnetic influence upon a single organ or point of the body. This is particularly noticed in the chapter upon the results of magnetism. Dr. Gilbert has lectured repeatedly in Boston and the adjacent towns with much success, always attracting the most intelligent

portion of the community, and presenting the subject with a degree of candor and skill, which gains for him the respect and confidence of the community. Dr. Gilbert has reduced his views to a scientific theory, somewhat more elaborate than that which we have given in this work, but agreeing perfectly with our explanation in the main.

Benj. T. Nyman, Esq., of Boston, is a magnetizer of great power, and very skilful in the management of experiments. Mr. Nyman has attended numerous private parties, and illustrated the science in presence of the most learned and scientific men of our city; and he has probably made more converts among this class of people, than any other magnetizer. His public lectures have been attended by large and intelligent audiences, and his discourses are distinguished for boldness and good common sense. He is an intelligent practical man—well qualified to illustrate this delicate subject.

The Rev. J. B. Dods, a Universalist clergyman, has recently lectured to audiences of nearly three thousand persons, for six or eight nights in succession, at the Malboro Chapel, in Boston. He is a man of decided talent, and possesses a happy faculty of interesting the great mass of the people in this mysterious and intricate science. His great experience in addressing religious societies, united with the habits of moral control and abstraction of mind, which his profession requires, afforded an excellent preparation for this difficult task. Mr. Dods has enlightened and convinced hundreds of persons who have heretofore been violent sceptics.

Mrs. Fergus, an intelligent and respectable lady of Boston, has given a great number of public and private illustrations of mesmerism, in family circles, and at her rooms, at the corner of Washington and Winter Streets. Her subject is a young woman blind from her birth. The experiments which she performs are of the most interesting character.

Dr. Shattuck of Lowell has also been very successful as a magnetizer and lecturer, and has made some new and valuable discoveries in the science. A large tumor was extracted from the shoulder of a lady whom he had magnetized, at a public lecture in Lowell, without causing the slightest pain. The incision was made to the depth of two inches. This experiment was performed under the direct personal inspection of three or four other physicians, who admitted the astonishing insensibility of the patient.

Silas Allen, Esq., of Pleasant St., Boston, is another good magnetizer. We have already mentioned that Miss Gleason the first person magnetized by Mons. Poyen, is now in this gentleman's family. Mr. Allen recently magnetized a lady who had broken an arm, and the fracture was set by Dr. Hewett, the well known "bone setter" while she was in this state, without pain. The arm was afterwards kept in the insensible condition

until healed. A report of this case has been published by Mr. Allen himself.

Among other gentlemen who have exercised the magnetic power, written upon the subject, and taken an active interest in its progress, we may mention the following:

In Boston, Rev. John Pierpont; Drs. Lewis, Flint, Dana, Ingalls, Gregerson, and Ball; Mr. Brackett, artist; Robert Carter, Esq., &c.

In New York, Rufus Dawes, Esq., the poet, Henry Inman, artist, Dr. H. H. Sherwood, and Rev. La Roy Sunderland.

In Providence, R. I., Drs. Brownell and Cleaveland; T. C. Hartshorn, Esq.

In Portland, Me., John Neal, Esq., Professor Ingraham.

In Hartford, Ct., Bishop Brownell, Ex-Governor Ellsworth, Dr. Brigham, and the Professors of Washington College.

In Albany, Rev. Messrs. Garfield, and Sprague; Dr. Yates, Professor Grimes, and Mr. Colburn.

In Philadelphia, Professor Mitchell, and several eminent lawers.

In Louisville, Kentucky, Dr. Charles Caldwell, and J. R. Buchanan.

CHAPTER III.

The art of Magnetizing—All persons possess the power—Method of operating—The Magnetic state—Its leading features—Rules and Cautions for the exercise of the power—Convulsions, Paroxysms, Crisis, &c.

It is universally contended by Magnetizers that all persons possess the magnetic power—females as well as males, and even children—differing only in degree. It is also believed that all persons can be acted upon by magnetic influence, differing, of course, in the degree of their susceptibility.

In answer to the inquiry, "can every person be magnetized?" we answer—yes. But one individual cannot magnetize every body. The most powerful magnetizer in the whole world (if he could be found) might magnetize all the rest of his fellow beings. But until this man be found, we must be content with this simple principle of nature—a lesser power cannot overcome a greater.

The difference in magnetic power between any two individuals arises, of course, from the different amount of vital fluid in

their systems; from the presence or absence of the intellectual and moral qualifications necessary to perform the operation; and from their knowledge or ignorance of the rules by which the art is governed. A man of powerful and well cultivated intellect, accustomed to mathematical abstraction, possessing a strong physical constitution full of vital fluid, will, of course, perform the operation of magnetizing better than a person in a low state of vitality, with a weak, uncultivated, or wandering mind. Thus it will be seen why some persons cannot magnetize every body. A lesser power cannot overcome a greater.

The power of magnetizing is greatly increased by practice. The operator gains confidence—learns to economise his power, and to exert it to advantage—and acquires a certain knowledge, feeling, or "knack," which it is almost impossible to explain in language.

The usual method of magnetizing a "new subject," or one who has never been magnetized before, is this:

The magnetizer takes a seat in front of the person to be magnetized, as represented in the preceding engraving. He first places the palms of his own hands upon the hands of the subject, and endeavors to establish an equal degree of warmth between them. He then places the balls of his thumbs against the balls of his subject's thumbs, holding the hands with a gentle pressure. Then abstracting his mind from all other thoughts and objects, and fixing his eyes upon the eyes of the subject, with earnest, determined, penetrating, but somewhat mild expression, he exerts an unremitted, unchanging effort of *will*, increasing in intensity the longer it continues, until the subject yield before his superior power, and closes his eyes in the magnetic sleep.

During all this operation the eyes of the magnetizer should not for an instant relax their hold upon the eyes of the subject, or move a hair's-breadth from their object, which is the very pupil of the eye. The magnetizer should not even wink from first to last, till the eyes of the subject close involuntarily as if made of lead. Incredible as it may seem, the eyes of a powerful magnetizer can be kept unwinking for half an hour, or even longer.

The act of magnetizing is now considered almost entirely a severe mental operation, and very little physical exertion is believed to be required.

As soon as the eyes of the subject close, the magnetizer begins to make the "passes" as they are called, with both hands, from the crown of the head down the sides of the face and body, to the end of the fingers, throwing the hands outward and carrying them back again to the crown of the head in semi-circles. The fingers of the operator, at this time, should always be kept slightly separated. After making these passes two or three minutes, (or longer) the magnetizer should pass

his hands lightly from the head, directly across the face to the pit of the subject's stomach (*always avoiding the nose and chin*) permitting them to rest upon the stomach for a momemt, then throwing them outward as before. Let these passes be continued for a few minutes; then repeat the first passes; then make several long passes from the head down to the feet; and the work is finished. If many experiments should be tried with the subject, the short passes must be occasionally repeated.

The prevailing sentiment in the mind of the magnetizer, during this operation, should be strong determination of will, united with benevolence of feeling. The proper ingredients of the magnetic power, are happily illustrated by the magic circle on the last page of this work.

An experienced magnetizer can generally tell by his own feelings whether he is likely to be successful or not. If successful, he seems to fasten upon the eye of the subject, with a gathering fascinating power, of a peculiar nature—and when this has been accomplished, he should endeavor, by all means, to keep the "charm" unbroken. This is the feeling, or "knack," before alluded to.

A subject is awakened and brought out of the magnetic state, by making passes, at the distance of two inches from the body, upward from the stomach to the head, exerting the will in a moderate degree to produce the desired result. There is no difficulty in this, and extended directions are therefore unnecessary.

After the magnetic sympathy is established, between the magnetizer and his patient, by holding the thumbs, and exercising the *will*, the external senses of sight, hearing, feeling, tasting, and smelling, generally become blunted, one by one; the eyelids are irresistably drawn together; a tingling sensation is felt in the arms; cold currents of air seem to be passing around the body, in the direction of the magnetizer's hands; and a general torpor falls upon the limbs. The eye yields first to the slumbrous influence, but long after that organ has ceased to act, the hearing retains all its acuteness, and the patient is still able to indicate sounds. But at length the "porches of the ear" are closed, as well as the "curtain of the eye,"—the senses of feeling, taste, and smell, lose their external power and the patient, though still alive and breathing, is dead to every thing around him, save the magnetizer's voice.

This condition is not always, as has been supposed, a state of *perfect insensibility*. It is believed, however, that no power but magnetism can awaken a subject while in the perfect somnambulic state. You may call upon them, but unless you are placed in magnetic communication, they cannot hear you. You may make shrill noises in their ears, or discharge pistols over their heads, but you cannot start them. None of the subjects that we have operated upon, could be awakened by external injuries inflicted upon the body. Very strong ammonia applied to the

nostrils, will sometimes cause them to move the head, and will bring tears from the eyes, but will not dispel the magnetic influence. So, if snuff, or red pepper, or hartshorn, should be thrust into the nostrils, with the end of a quill, until it reached the nerves of the eye, and affected the lungs, it would cause a sensation of pain, but would not arouse the patient, and he would know nothing of it, when brought back to his natural state. But what is very curious, although an arm or a leg might be amputated, without causing the patient to start, a slight dash of cold water thrown into the face will make him start more than any thing that can be done to him.

We know that many of the operations of the body go on as in ordinary life, and there is a living, palpitating substance beneath the paralyzed surface—but the avenues of external sensation seem to be generally closed—the patient loses control over his own thoughts and actions—and remembers nothing of what has passed, on being brought back to the natural state.

All persons, in the magnetic state, do not present the same phenomena.

Some persons are entirely rigid and insensible to pain, in every part of the body. You may pierce their flesh with knives, pull out their teeth, cauterize them with a hot iron, apply the most powerful caustic to their flesh, or give them an electric shock which would cause instant death in the natural state, but they appear totally unconscious of your attacks.

Others manifest a degree of sensation altogether unnatural, falling into fits of rage, or violent convulsions, if only touched by a spectator, or brought into contact with steel and other substances.

Some persons never speak while in the magnetic state; some speak with difficulty; others speak with the greatest elegance and fluency.

Some subjects possess the power of clairvoyance, and second-sight in a high degree, and can see things independently of the magnetizer, near their heads or at great distance, and describe them with astonishing accuracy. Others are never able to see or describe anything, near them or at a distance.

There is evidently no invariable rule with regard to the powers which may be elicited by magnetic influence, in different somnambulists. Nor are the same subjects always alike at different times.

The following are the principle cautions to be observed in exercising the magnetic power.

No person afflicted with nervous debility, bad humors, or chronic diseases, (especially of the heart or stomach) should ever attempt to magnetize. Apart from the injury sustained by the operator, the effect of such diseases upon the subject must be decidedly bad. Persons in the magnetic state feel most keenly all the sensations of the magnetizer, and suffer all his

ills, even in a greater degree, and are often seriously affected in consequence.

Nervous feelings in the operater, will produce convulsions in the subject, which it is often exceedingly difficult to suppress. Humors irritate them, or excite great nausea; and chronic diseases, such as St. Vitus' dance, are sometimes permanently communicated to the subject through the magnetic medium.

No person afflicted with chronic diseases of the heart, stomach or brain, should be thrown into the perfect magnetic state, by a person not thoroughly familiar with all the effects of this influence; for though magnetism might be beneficial to such persons, if judiciously applied, yet if improperly used, it might be exceedingly disastrous.

In case any excitement, convulsions, or other paroxysms should occur while the subject is in the magnetic state, the true course for the operator is, to remain perfectly calm, and cool; and he should immediately endeavor to restore the equilibrium of sensibility in the system by making long passes from the head to the pit of the stomach, and the extremities, exerting the will powerfully to compose the subject, until the paroxysms cease.

Convulsions and paroxysms arise from two causes—excitement from sympathy with the magnetizer; from disease in the magnetizer or the subject; or in consequence of magnetizing some of the organs of the brain, or the sympathetic nerves, intentionally or otherwise.

When the convulsions arise from sympathetic excitement, or from disease, the long passes from the head to the stomach will generally check them. But if this should prove ineffectual, the subject should be immediately taken out of the state.

When the convulsions arise from accidental or improper excitement of the organs of the brain, they can be checked by exciting the opposite organs, or by reducing the influence upon the excited organs, with backward passes. For instance, if combativeness be unnaturally excited, magnetize benevolence, and the subject's rage is changed at once to kindness and good humor. It is highly desirable to know precisely where these organs are located, so as to be able to hit them at once.

The magnetizer should always avoid placing the points of his fingers on any part of the head or body of the subject, (particularly upon the *nose*, *chin*, &c.) unless he is very familiar with the location of the organs and the sympathetic points, as they are called, of the whole system This rule is one of vast importance.

CHAPTER IV.

The Philosophy of Magnetism explained—The Magnetic Fluid—The Spiritual State—Main points of difference between Magnetizers—Magnetism not the effect of imagination, or the result of contrivance—Character of the Magnetic Medium—Analogies of Nature.

Intelligent Magnetisers throughout the country, agree very nearly in their opinions with regard to the nature of the magnetic power and the philosophy of the science.

We think we may assert, without fear of contradiction, that Dr. Collyer, Dr. Gilbert, Dr. Francis Dana, Rev. Mr. Dods, and Mr. Benj. T. Nyman, of Boston; Rev. Mr. Sunderland and Dr. Sherwood, of N. Y.; Rev. Mr. Garfield, of Albany; Dr. Buchanan, of Louisville; and other distinguished mesmerisers, all unite in explaining Animal Magnetism upon the principles which we are about to state. This is also the theory set forth by the Rev. Mr. Townsend, of England, in his "Facts in Mesmerism;" it was the doctrine advocated by Mesmer, Poyen, and Deleuze; and it agrees with the opinions of many of the old philosophers who wrote upon the subject of the soul. Our explanation is this:

It is believed that there is an elastic, invisible *ether* pervading all nature, which, under *different modifications*, and *in different bodies*, assumes the character of the electric, the galvanic, and the magnetic fluid. That a *modification* of this elastic ether is resident in the *nerves* of the human system, and is the *connecting link* between *mind* and *matter*. That this ether being set in motion by the will of *one person*, can be made to operate upon the ether resident in the nerves of *another person*, and *through that ether* upon the *brain*, so as to paralyze the *external senses*, control the *mind*, and hold subject the whole man to the will of the magnetizer. This ether, or fluid, is called the *Magnetic Medium*.

It is further believed that the human system consists of *four* great divisions. 1. A material body. 2. A vital or animating principle. 3. A mental power. 4. A soul, or spirit. And that the magnetic fluid is the *vital principle*, and the cause of all the strength and animation of the body.

It is also believed that when the avenues of natural or external sensation are closed, by the action of the *vital* or *magnetic fluid* communicated by the magnetizer, the *internal sense* (or spirit) becomes, as it were, somewhat relieved from the ordinary influences of the body, (as it will be after death,) and consequently displays its spiritual power; that the spirit exists, in

fact, in a new atmosphere, (the magnetic) in a state of being governed by *new laws*, and presenting most wonderful phenomena. The magnetic fluid then becomes a *medium* for the communication of ideas and sensations to the mind, just as the air conveys sounds to the ear, odors to the sense of smelling, and concussions to the sense of feeling.

When the subject is in the magnetic state, the internal sense has the power of seeing through all space, to the remotest bounds of the universe, by *an independent power of sight*—and this constitutes true Clairvoyance. The internal sense not only sees what the magnetizer may *imagine*, and communicate by sympathy of sensation, but it sees things that the magnetizer cannot see, and never has seen, by an independent power, peculiar to that spiritual condition.

The manner in which the magnetic fluid operates upon the human system, is a point not yet understood, and perhaps it never will be. It is a mystery, like many other mysteries of nature, which man cannot explain. We see a blade of grass grow, but we cannot fully explain *how* it grows.

The principal points of debate, between magnetizers, respecting the philosophy of the science, are these:

1. Whether the magnetic influence is a direct operation of *mind* upon *mind*, or the operation of *mind* upon a magnetic medium or fluid?

2. Whether, if there be a magnetic fluid in the human system, it is analogous to electricity or not?

The first, is mainly a point of inquiry, rather than of belief. No person, we think, practically acquainted with the science, actually believes the magnetic power simply a mental operation, without the agency of a fluid.

In relation to the second point, the prevailing opinion of magnetizers is settled and uniform. They believe that the magnetic fluid is in some respects strikingly analogous to electricity, and the galvanic fluid; but in other respects it differs from both very widely. They consider it a similar principle of nature, modified by the human system. The Rev. Mr. Dods is the only magnetiser who contends for a very strict analogy between electricity and animal magnetism.

The Rev. Mr. Townsend says, "I do not contend for the *identity* of the magnetic agency with the electric, but for the *propinquity*."

Dr. Buchanan of Louisville, says: "I have clearly proved the existence of a *fluid* in the nervous system, and am sure of its great analogy to magnetism; but have not succeeded in proving its *identity* either with electricity, magnetism, or galvanism."

We have recently made particular inquiries of Dr. Gilbert and Mr. Nyman, distinguished magnetizers before mentioned, as to their views on this point, and they both unite in saying they

do not believe in a perfect analogy between electricity, and animal magnetism. The opinions expressed by Mr. Sunderland, in his "Magnet," and by Dr. Collyer in his lectures, agree most perfectly with those above quoted.

That the results produced by the magnetizer cannot be the effect of imagination, is too apparent to admit of a doubt; that idea has long since been exploded, and no person at all acquainted with the subject, now pretends to advance it with any confidence whatever.

We disprove this charge at once, by the fact that a person who has been magnetized several times, can be thrown into the magnetic sleep by the magnetizer, when he is at a distance of half a mile, and at a moment when the person to be acted upon shall not even suspect it. This has been done successfully by a person who did not even know where the subject of his operations was at the time he made the attempt.

The greatest disbelievers in the science have also been thrown into the magnetic state, while making every effort to resist the influence of the power.

That the results of magnetism cannot be produced by any artificial contrivances, by drugs and opiates, or by collusion and trickery, has been admitted, by the most learned and ingenious men, who have, at various times, investigated the science in Europe and America. Indeed, if this power were a human contrivance, it would be more wonderful than magnetism itself with all its mystery.

That the magnetic medium, or fluid, partakes in no degree of the qualities of the immortal spirit, we feel satisfied from long experience, under every variety of circumstances, and from experiments of the most daring character, performed with a *determination* to put this question to the severest test that the nature of the subject permits. We are convinced, that however much we may operate upon the physical man, and upon the magnetic fluid which pervades his system, we have no control whatever over the immortal principle.

There is one reason, mentioned by Mr. Townsend, in proof of this theory of a magnetic fluid, which we consider a very forcible and substantial one: "That the magnetic influence," he says, "is *capable of exhaustion and repair*, like any other *physical agency*, we have had abundant means of ascertaining. It is well known that when we are strongest we can best magnetize, and that our power declines in proportion to the fatigue consequent upon its exertion. And when thus exhausted, the best restorative is exercise in the open air."

Now if the magnetic principle were not a fluid of a *physical nature*, how could it be thus *poured out* and *exhausted?* If the magnetic power proceeded from the immortal spirit, do you think it could be thus *lost* and *regained—diminished* and *increased?* Do you think we could reduce the dimensions of the

soul, by a mere effort of *will*, and regain immortal power from the common sun, the air, the skies?

Mr. Townsend observes, that if we seek for a general instance of the mutual *loss* and *gain* and *interchange* of vital force, which is one of the principal wonders of magnetism, we have only to look at the effects produced when *old* persons sleep with *young*. Since the days of King David, it has been known that old persons are thus strengthened at the expense of the young.

Some painful instances of this kind are upon record. One of an infirm old lady, who was so sensible of the benefit which she derived from sleeping with young persons, that with a sort of horrid *vampyrism* she always compelled her maid to share her bed, and thus successively destroyed the health of several attendants.

Facts of this description are well known, and show conclusively that the vital power is a fluid, of a physical nature, capable of being communicated from one body to another.

Some magnetizers have suggested that the magnetic fluid, was the great creative and vivifying power of the universe, the cause of light and heat, and the vitality of plants; and there would seem to be much that is reasonable in the idea.

CHAPTER V.

The principal results of Magnetic power—Sympathy of Sensation—Spiritual Knowledge— Clairvoyance—Describing internal Diseases—Phreno-Magnetism—Neurology—Local Magnetism—Latent Influences—Wonderful Insensibility—Magnetism not Injurious—Experiments with the Blind.

The grand characteristic of the Magnetic state, is the general insensibility of the system, and the control exercised over the mind and body of the subject, by the will of the Magnetizer.

The principal results which have been produced, in different subjects, by this power, are the following.

Sympathy of Sensation. The great sympathy of sensation, established between the subject and the magnetizer, is one of the first results of the magnetic condition. Some subjects manifest a more feeble degree of sympathy than others; but in general they feel very acutely all the pains, pleasures, tastes, and other sensations which the magnetizer feels; read his thoughts, and the two, in this respect, become "one flesh." There is no doubt at all upon this point.

Spiritual Knowledge. The fact that a person in the magnetic state, possesses superior knowledge, and wonderfully increased capacity of mind, is also placed beyond dispute. Under the influence of this power, the ignorant become wise; the weak-minded become strong and intelligent; a person of no musical taste or cultivation, can sing and play with a skill surpassing the most experienced performers; the profane and the infidel, become devout; and the whole moral and intellectual character, becomes changed from the degraded condition of earth, to the exalted intelligence of a spiritual state. The external senses are all suspended, and the internal sense or spirit, acts with its natural power, as it will when entirely freed from the body after death.

No person, we think, can listen to the revelations of a subject in a magnetic state, respecting the mysteries of our nature, and continue to doubt the existence of a never-dying soul, and the existence of a future, or heavenly life.

Clairvoyance. We also believe in the reality of an independent power of second-sight, called Clairvoyance—the power of seeing through all space, and describing scenes as existing at the moment, in any part of the universe, without the aid of the Magnetizer. When the subject receives ideas of places and things through the mind of the Magnetizer, it is merely *thought-reading*, or sympathy of sensation, not true Clairvoyance. There has been much mistake upon this point, and we wish to convey a correct idea of the power.

When the subject is in the perfect somnambulic state, the whole universe appears to them, (so they invariably inform us,) as if filled with light. They see with an internal or spiritual sense of sight, through the magnetic medium. When the magnetizer directs his mind to a particular object or place in any part of the world, he acts as a guide to point out the place or object which he would have the subject look at, and the subject then actually sees, not only that particular object or place, but all other objects and places in the vicinity, *as they exist at the moment;* they can then see things which the magnetizer cannot see, and never has seen, with an independent power of sight. In true Clairvoyant experiments, the magnetizer only acts as a guide to the subject; the subject does not see objects as stamped upon his imagination, but by looking directly at the objects themselves. We are a full believer in this doctrine.

Describing Internal Diseases. The power of seeing and describing the internal organs of the human system, is another remarkable peculiarity of the magnetic state. There is no doubt in the minds of practical magnetizers on this subject. It is the result of the Clairvoyant power and spiritual knowledge. Magnetic subjects differ of course very much in their capacity of seeing, and power of describing diseases, but all of them describe the same diseases in the same way, as we have proved

by hundreds of experiments. In general they can do little towards prescribing a cure, but their advice is often of a very valuable character. Whenever they do prescribe, it is some simple or natural medicine, as roots and herbs, or some directions as to diet, bathing, exercise, &c.

Pheno Magnetism. It is also a settled principle of belief, that the various organs of the brain may be excited by magnetic influence, while a person is in the Somnambulic state, singly, or in combination, almost to insanity, and relieved of this influence at pleasure. This is done by placing the fingers upon the organs as located by Phrenologists, and exerting the will accordingly. The organs may also be excited by the sympathy of sensation, if the magnetizer excite to an unusual degree any particular organ of his own brain; and hence arises the necessity of maintaining great firmness and coolness of mind, while conducting experiments of any kind in Animal Magnetism.

Neurology. This branch of magnetism was first discovered by Dr. Joseph R. Buchanan, of Louisville, Ky. It is the art of magnetising the organs of the brain, and nerves of the body, while the subject is in the waking state. He styles it Neurology, or the science of the nerves. His method of operating is but imperfeetly understood by other magnetizers, but is believed to be nothing more than the common power of Animal Magnetism, applied by a peculiar method of concentration, upon a single point, instead of extending its effects through the system. Indeed this power of producing local effects, in the natural state, has been discovered and exercised in Boston, by Dr. D. Gilbert, with even greater effect than by Dr. Buchanan, who claims for his discovery, the merit of a distinct science.

Local Magnetism. Dr. Gilbert, of Boston, has produced the most striking *local magnetic effects* upon many persons in the waking state, by a powerful abstraction and concentration of mind upon a single organ or point of the body. For instance, he will put an arm or leg into the rigid or insensible state, in two or three minutes, without affecting any other part of the body. The person operated upon, will retain a full knowledge of his condition, but will lose all power of motion and sensation, in the paralyzed limb, until restored by the will of the magnetizer.

Dr. Gilbert will magnetize an eye, so that a person will be unable to open or close it; the mouth so that it cannot be opened or shut; the tongue so that it cannot be put out, or drawn into the mouth; and so with respect to any organ of the body. He can also paralyze one part of the arm, (the upper or lower part,) and leave the power of motion, and natural sensation in the other part. He can even render insensible a single nerve, in any part of the body, without affecting any of the adjacent nerves. At some of his public lectures he has formed a tableau of six or eight persons who had never been magnetized before,

with their legs hoisted up, their arms extended, mouths open, tongues out, eyes closed, and all without the power of changing their ludicrous condition! Dr. Gilbert is also a powerful and very intelligent magnetizer in the usual way, and he has deduced from his experiments some very important principles, which we are not sufficiently familiar with, to give with accuracy. It will be seen at once, how useful this power of local magnetising might be made, in surgical operations, and acute sufferings from fractures, tic-dolereau, &c.

A variety of singular results have been produced by magnetic influence, not included in the above heads, and a number of daring experiments have been performed, to test the magnetic condition, which we will notice in the following paragraphs.

It is found that if two persons magnetize the same subject, particularly while he is in the magnetic state, it disturbs the influence, and injures the magnetic capacity. And if one of these magnetizers should endeavor to influence the subject, to oppose the other, it will destroy the experiments entirely.

Subjects may be made to fall into the magnetic state, at any hour or moment after they have been awakened, without any new influence being brought to bear upon them; and they will remain in that state just as long as directed, and no longer, coming out without any aid from the magnetizer. So if directed while in the magnetic state, to perform any particular act in the natural state, they will do so without knowing what influence controls them.

Many persons in the magnetic state, can, by their Clairvoyant power, find any individual you may think of, while in correspondence with them, whether they have ever seen that individual or not. They will tell you what part of the world he is in, what is the state of his mind and health, what he is doing at the moment, and many curious things about his personal history. If the person be dead, the subject will tell you so, and you may then send them in search of his spirit. Their revelations respecting the spiritual world, are very wonderful. We have tested this power of finding individuals, by permitting a stranger in a large audience, to take the subject's hand, and mention any person in the room, that person being also a stranger, and the subject has succeeded in selecting from three hundred strangers, the very person mentioned, with his eyes closed, three times in succession.

The wonderful insensibility of some persons in the magnetic state, has been tested by experiments of a fearful character, which place the fact beyond dispute. Dr. Collyer has repeatedly passed through one of his subjects, sufficient electricity to produce instant death, in any human being in the world. And this has been witnessed by hundreds of persons in Boston. Teeth are every day extracted, while the patients are under this influence, without pain. Tumors have been cut out, limbs set,

and other painful operations performed, which could not otherwise be endured without emotion. Concentrated ammonia has been forced into the nostrils; and subjects have even been compelled to inhale this powerful ether, without breaking the magnetic spell. We are satisfied that no human power except magnetism, can awaken a subject, if thoroughly magnetized. The facts above alluded to, are matters of common report, and are so well known and authenticated, that it is unnecessary to give the details.

The magnetic influence is not, that we are aware, in any respect injurious to the minds or general health of the subjects; but some of them, if magnetized frequently, become highly susceptible to this influence, and may be thrown into the insensible state by a very feeble power. A ring upon the finger, a chain, or a breast-pin worn by the subject, will sometimes retain sufficient magnetism to produce this effect. A common drinking-glass, handled by a magnetizer, will retain sufficient influence to paralyze an arm, if handled by the subject. A knife used by a magnetizer at dinner, can be distinguished by the subject, in consequence of the influence inadvertently imparted to it, and so of any other article used or handled by the magnetizer. These facts prove conclusively, in our opinion, that the magnetic agent is a *fluid* of a *physical* nature, capable of being imparted to material bodies, and that the will is only the *moving power* of that fluid.

The power of thought-reading, united with musical ability, has been wonderfully manifested, by some subjects, they being able to sing with great precision, following a musician placed in correspondence with them, through the most difficult pieces of composition, in any language, and even repeating any mixed pieces, or impromptu notes, which he may utter, with the exactness of a musical instrument responding to the touch, although entirely ignorant of music in the natural state. A subject recently exhibited by some gentlemen at the Marlboro Chapel, in Boston, possessed this power in a high degree.

Persons born blind, have been made to see, by Clairvoyant power, (not with the natural eyes) as well as any other magnetic subjects. They have read books, told the time by a watch, distinguished colors, &c.

CHAPTER VI.

Proofs of Magnetism from the Analogy of Nature, and the History of Man--Somnambulism, or Sleep Walking —Ecstatic Convulsions—Power universally exercised— Trances—Visions---Witches—Gipsies—Snake-Charmers, &c.

The facts and circumstances universally relied upon by magnetizers, to prove the reality of a magnetic power in the human system, are summed up in the following paragraphs:

"Mesmerism," says Mr. Townsend, "is no miracle, but a development of powers inherent in man."

In proof of this we notice the fact that the magnetic state has often been produced spontaneously, by nature, without the aid of human influence, as in cases of common somnambulism, or sleep-walking, epilepsy, catalepsy, and the ecstatic condition of religious enthusiasts.

Common sleep-walkers, it is well known, frequently rise in the night, and walk about in dangerous places, without injury—perform many useful labors—and retire to rest without being awakened from their slumbers. Some persons have threshed grain, written sermons, prepared accounts, &c., while in this state, with as much skill as if really awake. Other persons, in fits of somnambulism and epilepsy, which frequently come on in the middle of the day, have developed some of the extraordinary powers of the magnetic state, such as the capacity of seeing with the eyes closed and bandaged, divining the thoughts of the persons around them, and describing things in another room, or in distant places. Some of these persons have also been gifted with superior knowledge, such as we find in the magnetic patients.

We found a well attested case of this kind, on a recent visit to Hartford. The subject was a young woman named Green, who had been under the care of Dr. Gillet, a well known and highly respectable physician living at East Windsor, Connecticut. He informed us that several years ago the young woman frequently fell into fits of somnambulism, in the day time, and manifested some extraordinary powers. She was able to thread a needle, and to perform her domestic labors, with her eyes closed; she could read a book, upside down, with great fluency; could tell the time by a watch held near her head; knew what her friends were doing in any part of the room, at any moment, &c. This lady had a very feeble constitution, and it was supposed that the phenomena were produced by the weakness of her system. Dr. Gillett, and other persons magnetized her, and

she gradually increased in strength, and the fits ceased altogether. The lady still lives near East Windsor, at a place called Wapping.

A similar, but still more extraordinary case occurred some few years ago at a place called Marston's Mills, near Barnstable, Mass. The subject was a Mrs. Freeman, who was under the care of a physician named Dr. Bennet Wing.

There are few persons, probably, who have not heard of young Yarnell, a lad born in Buck's County, Pennsylvania, and brought up in the family of a Mr. Harper, in Frankford, Philadelphia County. This lad, it is said, even in health, had the most perfect somnambulic or magnetic lucidity. He could perceive persons and their conduct, at any distance, by simply closing his eyes, resting his elbows on his knees, and his head on his hands. When questioned by wives as to husbands long absent at sea, he would give the most correct information; and he often directed where stolen articles might be found.

The case of the famous Springfield somnambulist, Miss Jane Rider, is well known. These are but examples of a large class of cases, of different shades of character, produced spontaneously, without the aid of human influence, showing conclusively, we think, that there is capacity in the human system, fitted to produce the high degree of lucidity or clear-sightedness, and the spiritual knowledge of the magnetic state. In cases of ordinary somnambulism, epilepsy, catalepsy, and ecstatic convulsions, it is a disease; but in the magnetic state, it is a natural development of powers inherent in man. We prove that the spontaneous condition is a disease, because it is seldom or never exhibited in persons of sound or healthy constitutions: and because they can be relieved from these difficulties by the application of magnetism.

Religious excitement of every description is a most prolific cause of trances, convulsions, and so-called insanity. The organs of veneration and marvellousness become highly excited, the brain is continually active, and the whole system is thus rendered exceedingly susceptible to magnetic influence. In large assemblies individuals are sometimes magnetized by other persons—sometimes they magnetize themselves—and sometimes the trances are the sole result of disordered mental action.

The trances which occur in the dancing assemblies of the Shakers, are undoubtedly produced by this cause. Here, the mind of every individual is fervently and intensely fixed upon one subject—Heaven. They are all engaged in making violent manipulations with their hands, and heads, throwing off and fanning the vital fluid at every motion, and acting upon it by the strong influence of their wills. The most sensitive persons soon fall down in the magnetic state, and the spirit, having power to see through all space, directs its attention at once to the heavenly world.

Persons in this state often rehearse to the astonished listener full and coherent accounts of the heavenly world, and its inhabitants. Magnetic subjects will do precisely the same thing, and will find and describe any particular person—any friend you may select, or any of the "great dead,"—either in Heaven or the other regions. That they actually do find and see these persons, we do not mean to assert. But their revelations are certainly very wonderful in any view of the subject, and vastly more ingenious than any thing they are capable of producing in the natural state.

We find another strong argument in support of the truth of Mesmerism, from the fact that this power is universally exercised, in every part of the world, by some of the most learned and sagacious men of the age, and many elaborate philosophical treatises have been written upon the subject. It is a natural power, shared, in some degree by all men, and therefore cannot be an imposition.

"The magnetizer," says Mr. Townsend, "makes no mysterious monopoly of his art, but contends that the power to magnetiez, and the capacity of being magnetized, however modified by circumstances, may be developed in every human being."

"The faculty of magnetizing," says Mr. Deleuze, "exists in all persons; but some men have a magnetic power very superior to that of others."

And this is the current opinion of all magnetizers.

Another proof of magnetism, is this:—The magnetic patients are thrown into a state which cannot be feigned, and which, if it could, would be more wonderful than even magnetism itself—and the results are beyond any human power heretofore known.

We believe that no man, however skilful, or ingenious he may be, can feign the magnetic state, and bear what our subjects will bear, and perform what they can perform. Men may perform greater feats, of a different character, but they cannot counterfeit the effects of magnetism.

Again, the subject of Human Magnetism has been repeatedly investigated, by skilful, scientific men, who have invariably become convinced that it was *not an imposture.* The reports of the French Committees, and the late Boston Committee, show this.

Many a "wrinkled eld" has no doubt, acquired both fame and fortune by the exercise of this wonderful power, without knowing any thing of the philosophy of her art. The power was perhaps discovered by accident, and pursued because it furnished an easy mode of escaping the ills of poverty. Some of these unfortunates, have, no doubt, adopted the common opinion of the world, that the Evil One aided their craft; and have given themselves up to the spirit of evil itself, as a matter of necessity.

The Gipseys, in Great Britian, and the Gitanos in Spain,

who possess the wonderful art of taming wild and unmanageable horses, by whispering in their ears, are believed to have exercised the same power in a high degree. These strange people throw themselves into convulsions and trances, heal the sick by a pretended application of wild herbs gathered at midnight in lonely places, and perform a variety of other marvellous feats, by magnetism, which have long eluded the keenest inquiries of philosophy and science.

The Snake charmers of India, and the Lion tamers of Europe and America, use the same power.

The black snake is a powerful magnetizer, as in the case of bird-charming. The domestic cat also magnetizes birds; and it is a singular fact, that if a man attempt to magnetize a cat, it rouses her at once, and she will become restless, and escape to avoid his glance, or fly directly in his face. The great quantity of electricity in a cat, which may be elicited by rubbing the fur, is well known.

There are also numerous other interesting analogies which we have not space to notice.

CHAPTER VII.

Objects and uses of the Science—the relief of pain—treatment of Nervous Diseases—Use in Surgical Operations—Investigation of Internal Diseases—Important truths respecting the Brain, Nervous System, the Vital principle, the Soul, and the Spiritual State.

One of the first inquiries which arise in the mind, in view of the wonders of Magnetism, is this: What is the object and tendency of this power? Is it not dangerous to the best interests of society?

We might answer this question by the single assertion that *all truth is of divine origin*, and cannot be injurious to man. But the subject will admit of a more full and extended answer.

The power of Animal Magnetizing, is in our opinion, a very remarkable and important discovery, on account of the light which it throws upon the whole nature of man—his physical, mental, and spiritual condition.

In its application to the cure of nervous complaints, and the relief of pain; in the examination of internal diseases; and in surgical operations, its value has been tested and proved by abundant experiments, which must be familiar to the reader. There is yet a vast field to be explored in this direction, and incalculable,

we believe, will be the amount of knowledge which will be gained by future experiments.

As a remedial agent in cases of head-ache, tooth ache, tic-dolereau, paralysis, chronic pains, convulsions, nervous debility, and other diseases of a similar character, it has been in the highest degree successful. In cases of violent nervous affections, such as shaking palsy, nervous irritation, titanic convulsions, great wakefulness, &c., it is the only power that can afford immediate and permanent relief.

In surgical operations its great usefulness in producing an entire insensibilty of the system, has been tested and proved by abundant experiments which must be familiar to the reader. Several cases are particularly noticed in the other parts of this treatise. In extracting teeth it has also been used to produce insensibility to pain, with entire success, and several experiments of this sort have been tried, by different lecturers, in the presence of large assemblies, to their entire satisfaction.

The power of seeing and describing internal diseases, has also been fulley tested. We believe the magnetic patient has the power of investigating the condition of his whole body,—head, lungs, stomach, intestines, and even the interior of his bones, muscles, and arteries, whenever requested to do so by the magnetizer; and that he can also look into the bodies of other persons, and describe his own or other diseases, although himself entirely ignorant of the science of medicine, and the ills of the person examined. We believe he can do this either by taking the hands of persons, or by looking at them, (if clairvoyant) at the distance of many miles.

We find that the magnetic subjects will describe an individual, and his diseases, in the same way, if directed to do so half a dozen times, at intervals of several days, although the person examined may be a perfect stranger. Two subjects also agree very nearly, in their descriptions.

Mr. Hood, the celebrated English wit, very truly observes that if any man labors in the *dark* like a *mole* it is a *physician*. He has continually, (he says) to divine the *color* of a *cat* in a *bag*. H is called in to examine a *suspected trunk*, without the police-man's privilege of *search*. He is expected to pass judgment on a *physical tragedy*, going on in the *house of life*. without the critic's chance of seeing the *performance*. In fact, every malady is an *Enigma*, and when the doctor gives you *over*, he "gives it up."

Mr. Townsend recommends seriously and in strong terms, to all who study medicine as a profession, to pay attention to human magnetism, "for by this power," he says, "we best dissect man, whether *mentally* or *physically* and if ever the *vital influences* are to be understood, it must be, not by anatomizing the dead, or by torturing the living, but by observation of our fellow men while in the magnetic state."

The magnetic agency also reveals many important truths re-

specting the Brain, the Nervous System, the Vital or animating principle, the Soul and the spiritual state. It demonstrates most conclusively, the truth of a multiplicity of organs in the Brain, as set forth by Gall, Spurtzheim, and other phrenologists, and renders Phrenology no longer a science of observation or theory. It not only proves Phrenology as it has formerly been understood, but it developes and extends it to a most suprising extent, showing more than one hundred different organs, where we have before known only about thirty.

It shows a wonderful connexion between these organs and the nerves of expression in the countenance, revealing a system of Physiognomy at once curious and astonishing, and as positive as any of the facts of natural science.

It illustrates the whole mechanicism of the nerves and muscles, even to the finer threads of the nervous system, which are lost in the attempt to anatomize the body. It goes beyond all former medical and anatomical knowledge, opening as it were the very doors of the arcana of nature, and showing the internal organization of man with the eye of a superior intelligence.

The language of the Rev. Mr. Townsend, upon this subject is the language of perfect truth.

"Separated from the usual action of the senses," he says, "the mind of the somnambulist seems to gain juster notions, to have quite a new sense of spiritual things, and to be lifted nearer to the fountain of all good and all truth. The great indication of this state, is a horror of falsehood, which I have found to be common to all subjects. Sincerity is their special characteristic; they cannot feign or flatter; they seem to be taken out of common life, with all its heartless forms and plausible conventions."

Mr. Townsend relates that having magnetized an infidel he proceeded to question him on subjects relative to a future state, in the presence of a gentleman of much intelligence who wished to witness the experiment.

"The conversation itself," he says, "I cannot detail, but the impression it left upon my mind can never be effaced. The Somnambulist rose into an eloquence which seemed unearthly. It was simple, it was beautiful, it was like inspiration. He spoke of the never dying nature of the soul; of its ransomed beatitude; of its progress through various eras of existence. Every one present was affected; some even to tears. It was beautiful to see the young prophet, whose countenance had taken an expression of puity and childish innocence, speaking so calmly the words of holiness and comfort, and the older listener humbly stooping to drink of the waters of refreshment from so lowly a source.

"Beautiful are the things he has said to me, respecting the soul's recognition of those it loved on earth, and of the privilege of departed friends to watch over the objects of their solicitude while toiling through the pilgrimage of life; but were I par-

ticularly to record these *speculations*, as they would be called, I should probably be deemed a visionary or branded as an enthusiast."

We had a conversation with Bishop Brownell, of Connecticut, some few months since, upon this subject. The Bishop is a full believer in the science, and very bold in his advocacy of its truth. He declares unhesitatingly that he has no fears, whatever, of its dangerous tendency. He says he never fears the truth. He thinks it may possibly be devoted to some bad uses, and so he says, may almost any power known to man. But for this reason alone he would not shut out the light of nature, nor refuse to follow the guidance of truth.

The Rev. Mr. Townsend seems to be impressed with the same generous feeling.

"In pure compassion," he says, "I would appease the fears of those who deem Mesmerism, if true, a perilous truth that should be huddled up from knowledge, and, like the Bible in a Catholic land, restricted to the use of the initiated. Such persons actually dread lest the new science should make man too wise, and too powerful, and look upon it with fear and trembling, as a pernicious stepping forward from our sphere, as the very Babel tower of this era. *Let these apprehensions subside.* In being permitted to view the mesmeric state, there is nothing to make man proud, but all to make him humble. Then, too, mesmerism has its restrictions which keep it low to earth, even while it hints to heaven. Many are the conditions required for its accomplishment. Carefully hedged about is it, by the barriers of opposing will, by defective sensibility, even by a spirit of skepticism. Its highest capacities are exercised with difficulty, its loftiest wonders are few and fleeting. and exhaust evidently, the person by whom they are exercised."

CHAPTER VIII.

Published Works on the Subject of Mesmerism, with an opinion of their value—Elliotson's Essays—Townsend's "Facts"—Poyen's Works—Hartshorn's translation of Deleuze—Col. Stone's Letter—Durand's Exposition, or New Theory—Magazines, Essays, &c.

In France, great attention has been paid to the subject of magnetism, ever since its introduction by Mesmer. Men of the first rank and education have practiced it, and published essays and volumes upon the subject. The Society of Paris, alone, has published 24 volumes of narratives of facts, essays, and reviews.

The publications on Animal Magnetism in England, have not been so numerous as in France. Dr. John Elliotson has published some essays on this subject, and has devoted to it one chapter of his great work on Physiology. A lengthy report of his address before the London Phrenological Society has also been published.

The Rev. Mr. Townsend's "Facts in Mesmerism," which has been frequently alluded to in this treatise, is an elaborate philosophical work, of great value. It contains many important facts, and principles, expressed in elegant philosophical language; and should be read by every intelligent inquirer after truth. This work has been republished by Messrs. Little & Brown of Boston, and by the Messrs. Harper of New York.

Mons. Poyen's "Progress of Magnetism in New England," contains much interesting information respecting the first experiments performed in the United States; and though Poyen was far behind the operators of the present day in his knowledge of the art, yet his work is one of considerable value.

Poyen also published a translation of the Reports of the French Committees. The results of these investigations are fully stated in the first chapter of this work.

Soon after the appearance of Poyen's works, Mr. T. C. Hartshorn of Providence, R. I., published a translation of the "Practical Instructions in Magnetism," by Mons. Deleuze, Librarian of the Society of Natural History, of Paris, with a valuable Appendix of facts collected by the translator. This work, in our estimation, ranks next to Mr. Townsend's in value. Deleuze was a very experienced magnetizer. He had practiced the art some twenty or thirty years, and had seen experiments performed by some of the most distinguished operators of Paris. His work contains very full and minute instructions for magnetising, particularly in relation to the treatment of diseases. This part of the subject has never been treated so well by any other writer; and we have been more brief upon this point, than we otherwise should, because all requisite information may be obtained from Deleuze. The great fault of his work is the tone of *excessive timidity* which runs through the whole of it, and the evident ignorance, which he manifests, of many important laws of the science, which are now well understood. Deleuze appears to have known nothing of the art of exciting the organs of the brain. Many of the convulsions and "crisis," which he speaks of, and which he considered an unavoidable result of magnetic influence, no doubt arose from the accidental excitement of the organs of the brain, or the sympathetic nerves. This fact being known, there is no great difficulty in controlling a patient, and maintaining a constant equilibrium of magnetic influence in every part of the system. Still, the Instructions of Deleuze contain many valuable hints and cautions, which should be read by every magnetizer, who wishes to understand

the art. Mr. Hartshorne's translation was published at Providence, but is now, we fear, nearly out of print.

Col. Stone's letter to Dr. Brigham of Hartford, also published about this time, is rendered almost useless, by the great increase of light upon the subject; but it is still interesting on account of its fairness and intelligence, and as a part of the history of the science.

Durand's Exposition, or New Theory of Animal Magnetism, is now consigned, by general consent to the oblivion which it deserves. It is, in our opinion, the most contemptible burlesque we have ever read. It has neither the merit of wit, ingenuity, or philosophical force. It is neither broadly ludicrous, shrewdly sensible, nor gravely argumentative. It has neither keenness, nor bluntness sufficient to merit attention. It is merely a long and distorted statement of magnetic experiments, with a false, foolish, and pointless attempt at explanation. It does not contain a single suggestion which is now thought worthy of remembrance. Then why did it have such a powerful influence upon the public mind? Our answer is this. At the time it was issued, the public mind was highly excited upon the subject of magnetism. The mass of the people were violent skeptics. They considered the whole thing a magnificent humbug, and they were ready to receive any explanation of the trick, without a question of its truth. Durand promised an exposition of the humbug, and the bait was swallowed without mastication. The book appeared—an elaborate pamphlet—and went off faster than hot cakes at a hungry table. Every body read it, and believed that the humbug was *exposed*, though they could not, for the life of them, tell *how* it was exposed. We set it down as a very lucky, but not a very ingenious pecuniary speculation. The book is now irretrievably defunct, and can serve no useful purpose, unless it be to singe a fowl, or "stop some hole to keep the wind away."

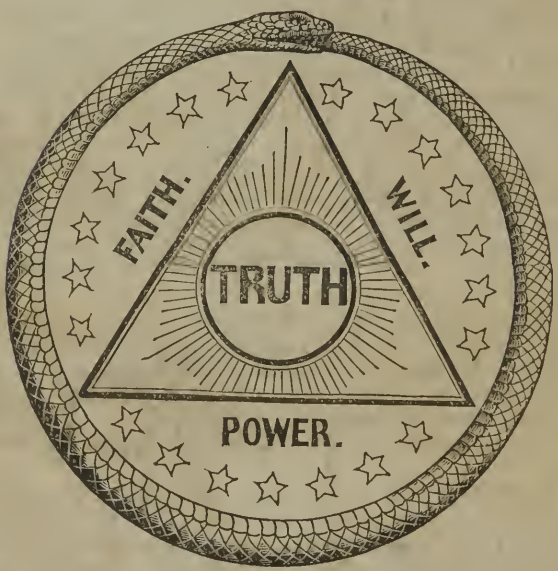
The works published since Durand's Exposition, are not numerous.

Dr. H. H. Sherwood of N. Y., has published a medical work, containing some bold suggestions, entitled "The Motive Power of Organic Life," in which he maintains the opinion that the vital principle is essentially magnetic, and may be operated upon, in the cure of disease, upon purely magnetic principles.

In 1841, Dr. R. H. Collyer published the first number of a "Mesmeric Magazine," at Boston, but in consequence of the pressing nature of his public engagements, he was compelled to suspend it.

In the same year, the Rev. La Roy Sunderland commenced a similar publication, called the "Magnet," at New York, which is still continued. It is a useful work.

Dr. Caldwell of Louisville, Ky., and Professor Mitchell of Philadelphia, have both published small works upon this subject, which will be read with interest.

A little work, giving an outline of the science was published anonymously in Philadelphia, several years ago, entitled "The Animal Magnetizer."

Articles of value have also appeared in the Knickerbocker Magazine, the Louisville Journal, the Philadelphia Gazette, the Boston Courier, and other leading journals, from writers of eminence, giving detailed accounts of remarkable experiments. There is certainly no lack of facts or information on this important subject.